

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of Claims 35-47, and the Examiner's indication that Claims 8-13 and 25-34 will be allowed if Claims 8, 25 and 29 are rewritten in independent form so that Claims 8, 25 and 29, and Claims 9-13, 26-28 and 30-34 (which depend directly or indirectly from Claims 8, 25 and 29) are put in good form for allowance. The amendments made herewith are believed to put Claims 8-13 and 25-34 in good form for prompt allowance.

In essence, what the present response does is to gratefully accept the majority of what the Examiner has been willing to allow -- by putting Claims 8, 25 and 29 in independent form so that Claims 7-13 and 25-34 (which have been held to include allowable subject matter) can be allowed, whereby a patent should be permitted to issue that includes Claims 8-13 and 25-47 (it being noted that Claims 1-7 and 14-24 are cancelled herewith).

While preparing this response, two "errors of omission" were noted in the language of rejected Claim 22, namely: 1) the sub-paragraphs of this Claim 22 are improperly labeled "a)," "c)," "d)" and "e)" (i.e., the label "b)" was inadvertently omitted when the sub-paragraphs of Claim 22 were labeled); and 2) the words "latching system including" were inadvertently omitted from the first line of Claim 22 -- words that should have been included in the introduction of Claim 22 to correspond with the "latching system" language that appears in the introductions of the several claims that depend directly or indirectly from Claim 22.

The two "errors of omission" identified just above have been corrected in copying language from Claim 22 into Claims 25 and 29 -- so amended Claims 25 and 29

(which now are in independent form) do not perpetuate the "errors of omission" of Claim 22 -- and so that all of the allowed and allowable claims now consistently refer to a "latching system."

Also, in amending Claim 29 to put this claim in independent form, the word "first" has been added ahead of the words "operating mechanism" in line 2 so that the phrase "second operating mechanism" (which is introduced in sub-paragraph "e" of Claim 29) will make good sense.

The submission herewith of copies of a Replacement Drawing Sheet (wherein FIGURE 2 has been amended to correct the numbering of a link 304, and wherein the numeral 303 has been added to designate an axis about which the crank arm 305 may be turned in the same manner as is illustrated in FIGURE 16 where the substantially identical crank arm 1805 is shown turned to tension links connected thereto) is believed to overcome the drawing objections. Acceptance of the Replacement Sheet Drawing is respectfully requested.

If any issues or concerns are found to remain, Examiner Lugo is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney, for counsel will gladly cooperate with the Examiner in any reasonable way that will advance the prosecution of this case.

Because fewer claims remain active than paid for previously, and because the claims that remain active include the same number of independent claims as paid for previously, it is urged that no fee (except for the extension fee that is paid by the accompanying check) needs to be paid herewith. However, if some additional fee should be paid in order for the amendments presented herewith to be entered and for the intent of this response to be carried out, authorization is given to charge such additional

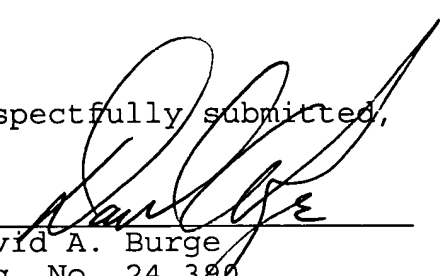
fee, or to credit any fee overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4700 maintained by the firm of David A. Burge, Co., L.P.A.

*10/17/05*

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Date

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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*SEE APPENDED  
REPLACEMENT SHEET  
DRAWING COPIES  
PRESENTING AMENDED  
FIGURE 2*